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Swank et al.

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(54) **DOORSILL WITH MULLION SPACER**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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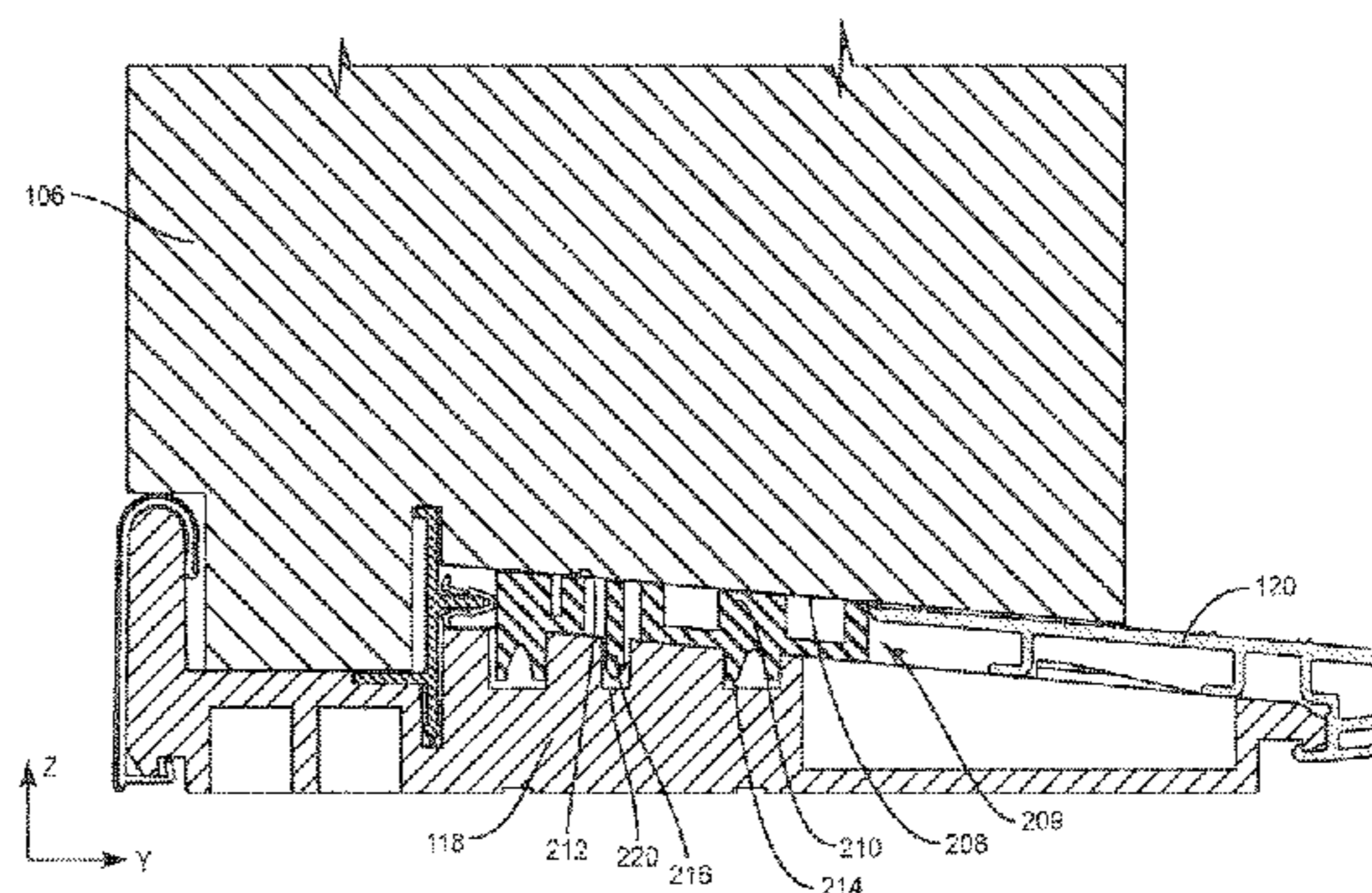
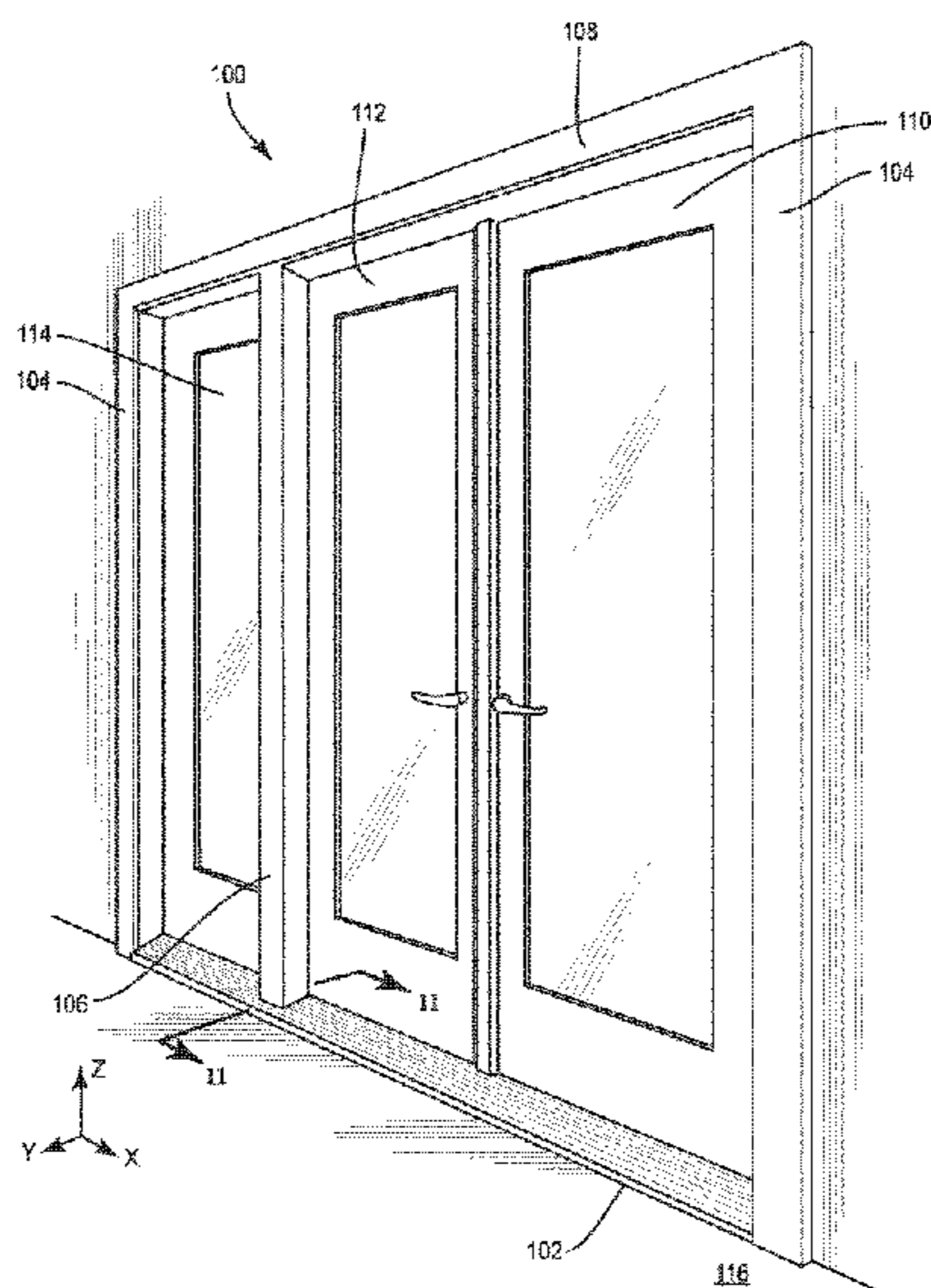
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A doorsill for forming the bottom of an entryway. The doorsill has a substrate to be disposed above a subfloor and a lifter provided on the substrate capable of extending from a bottom of the substrate. The lifter is adjustable to change the orientation or position of the bottom relative to the subfloor.

18 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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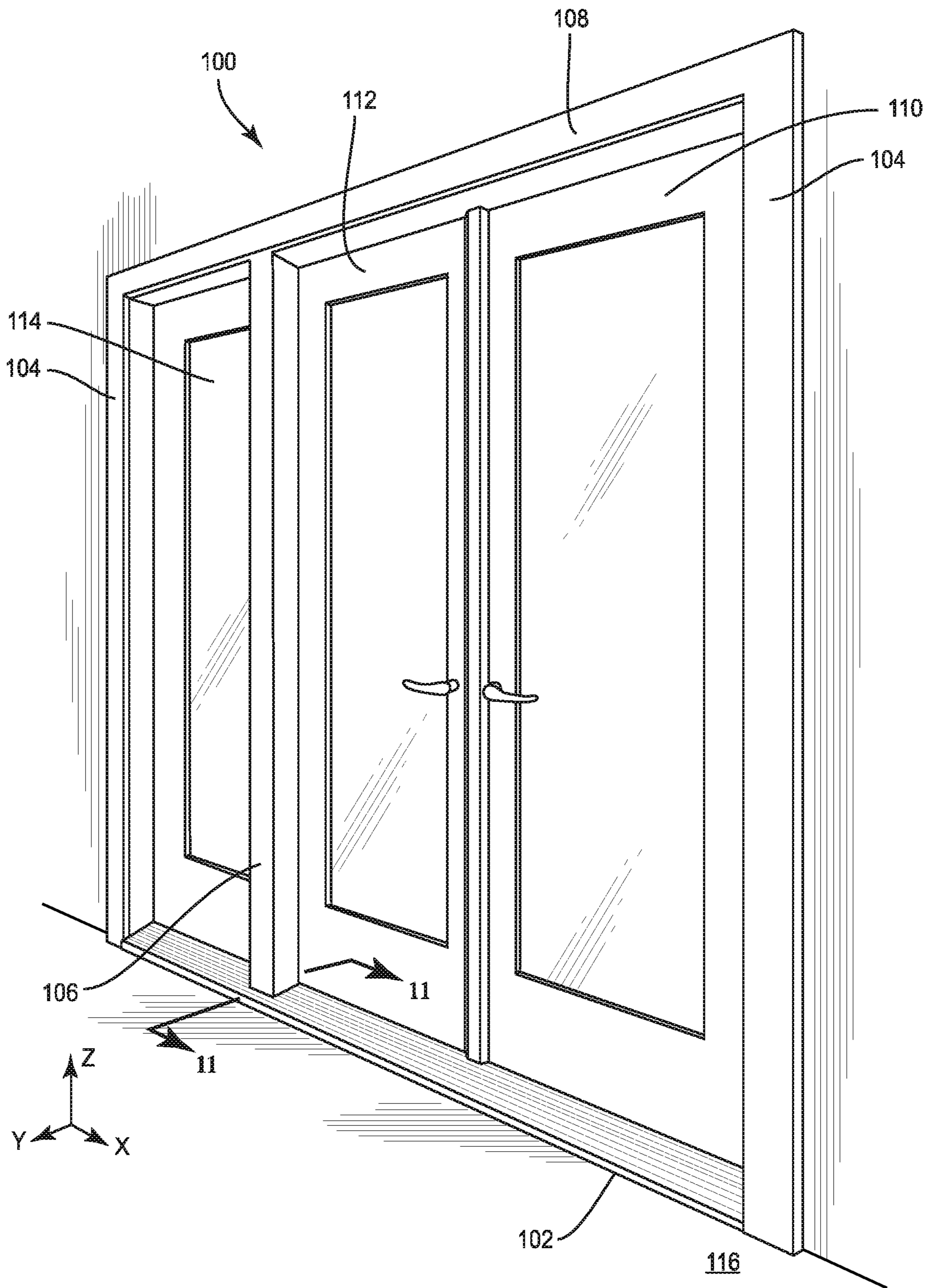


FIG. 1

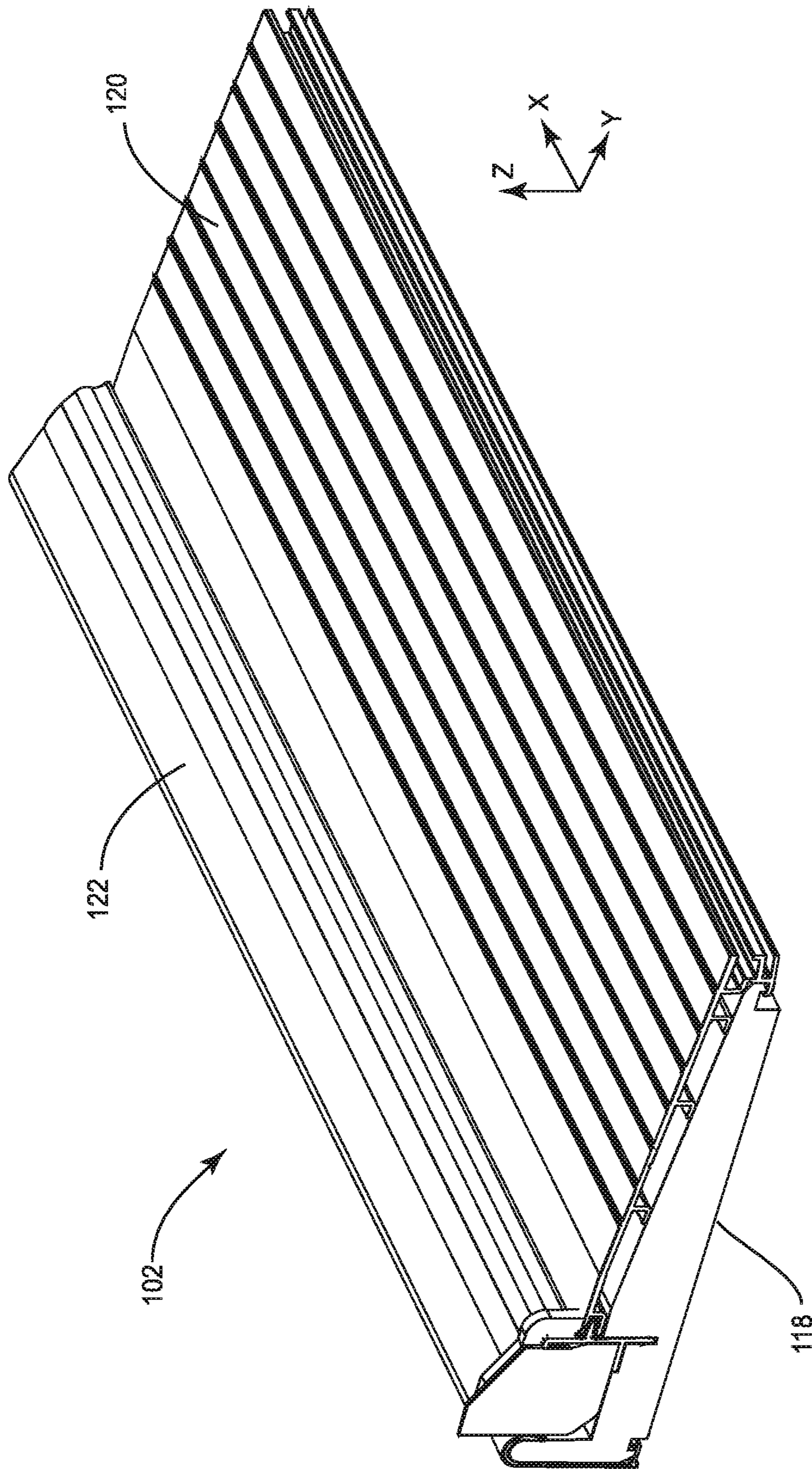


FIG. 2

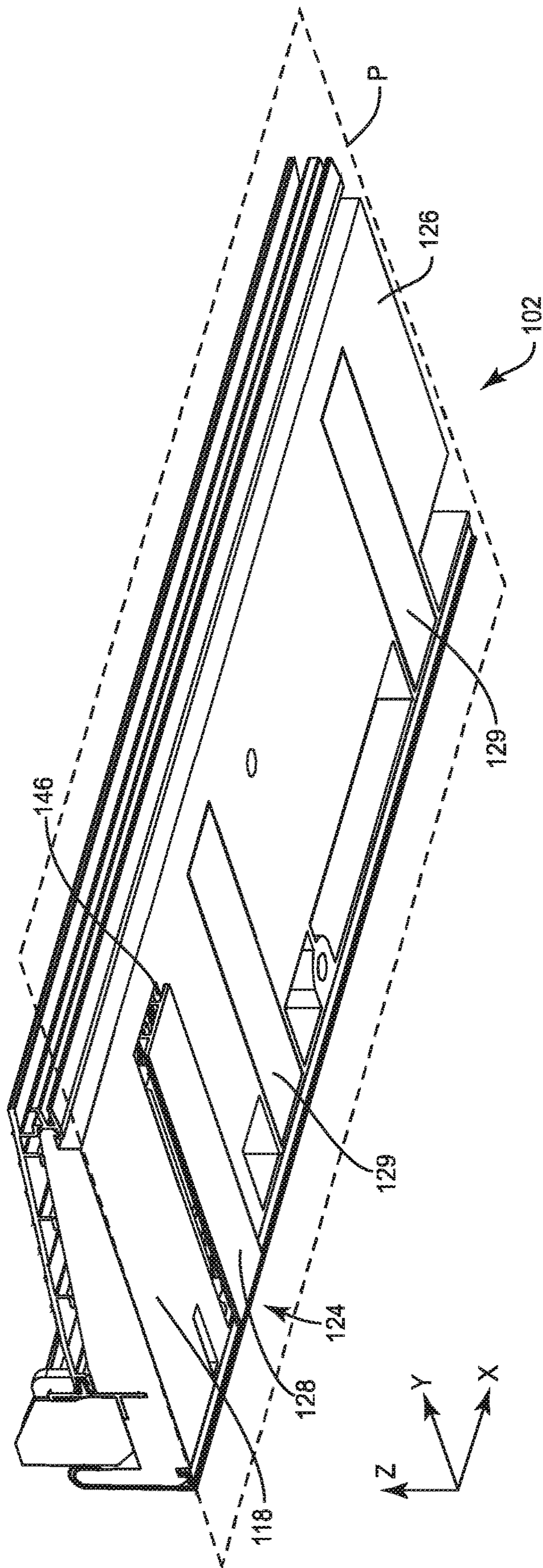


FIG. 3

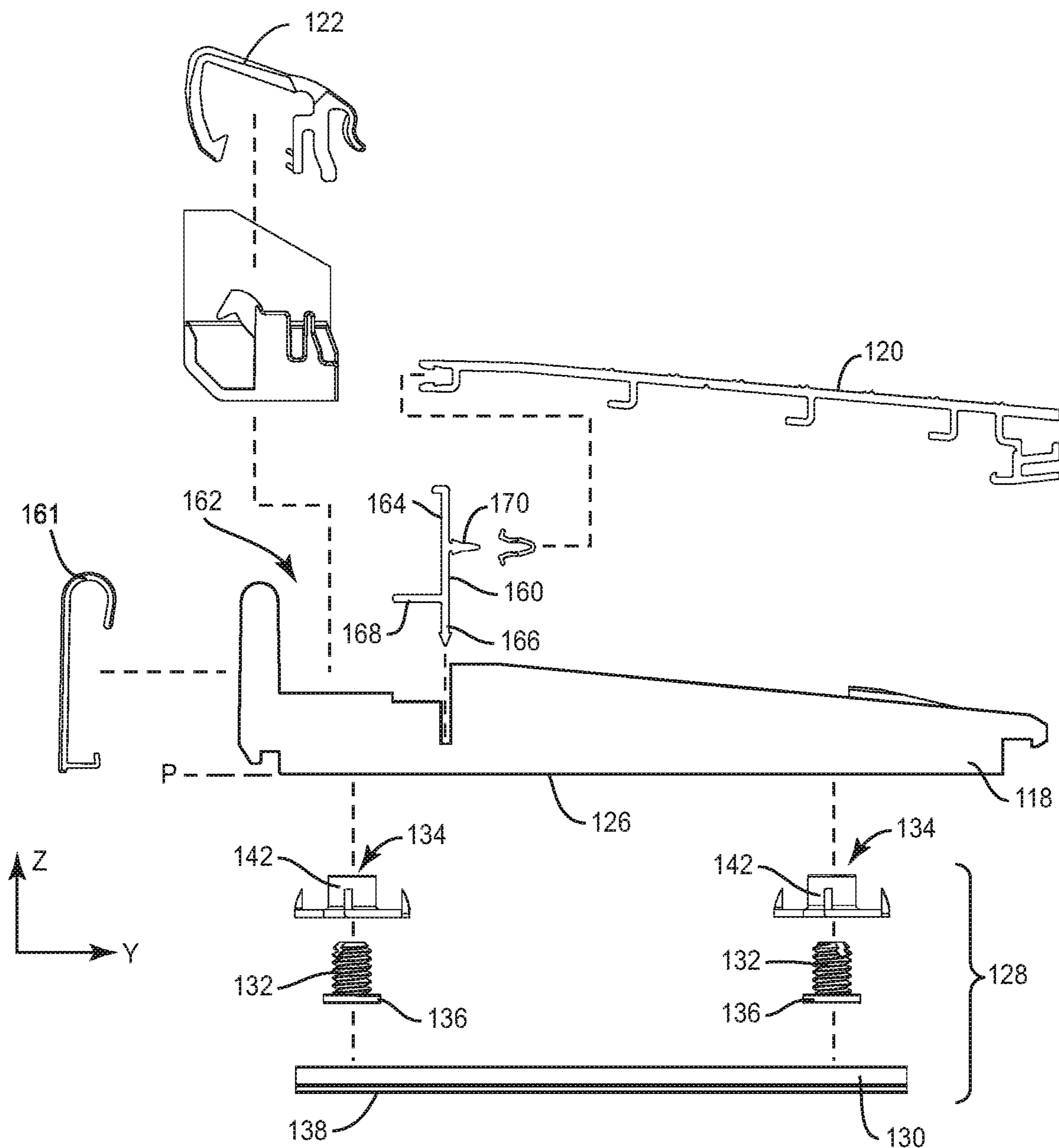


FIG. 4

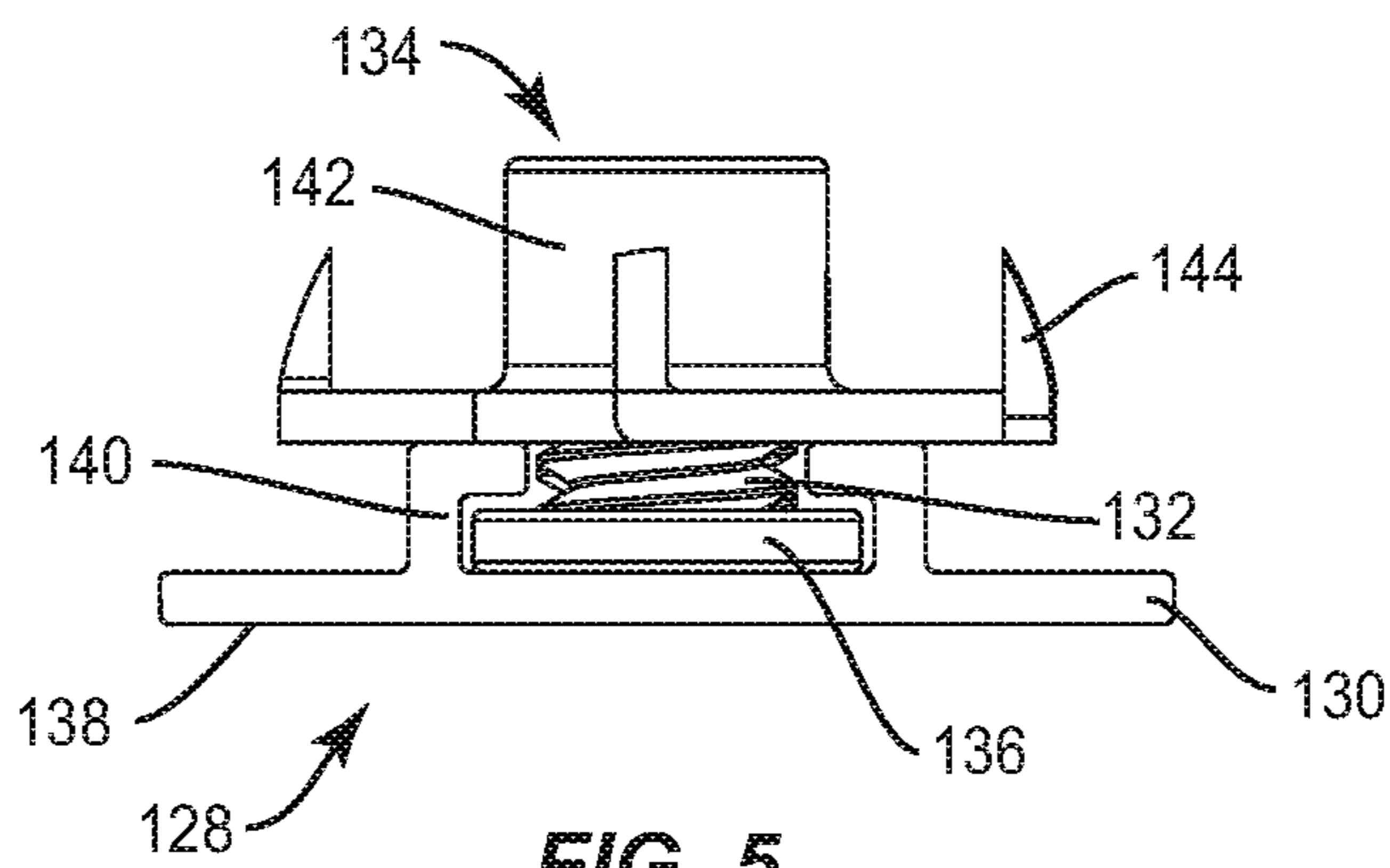


FIG. 5

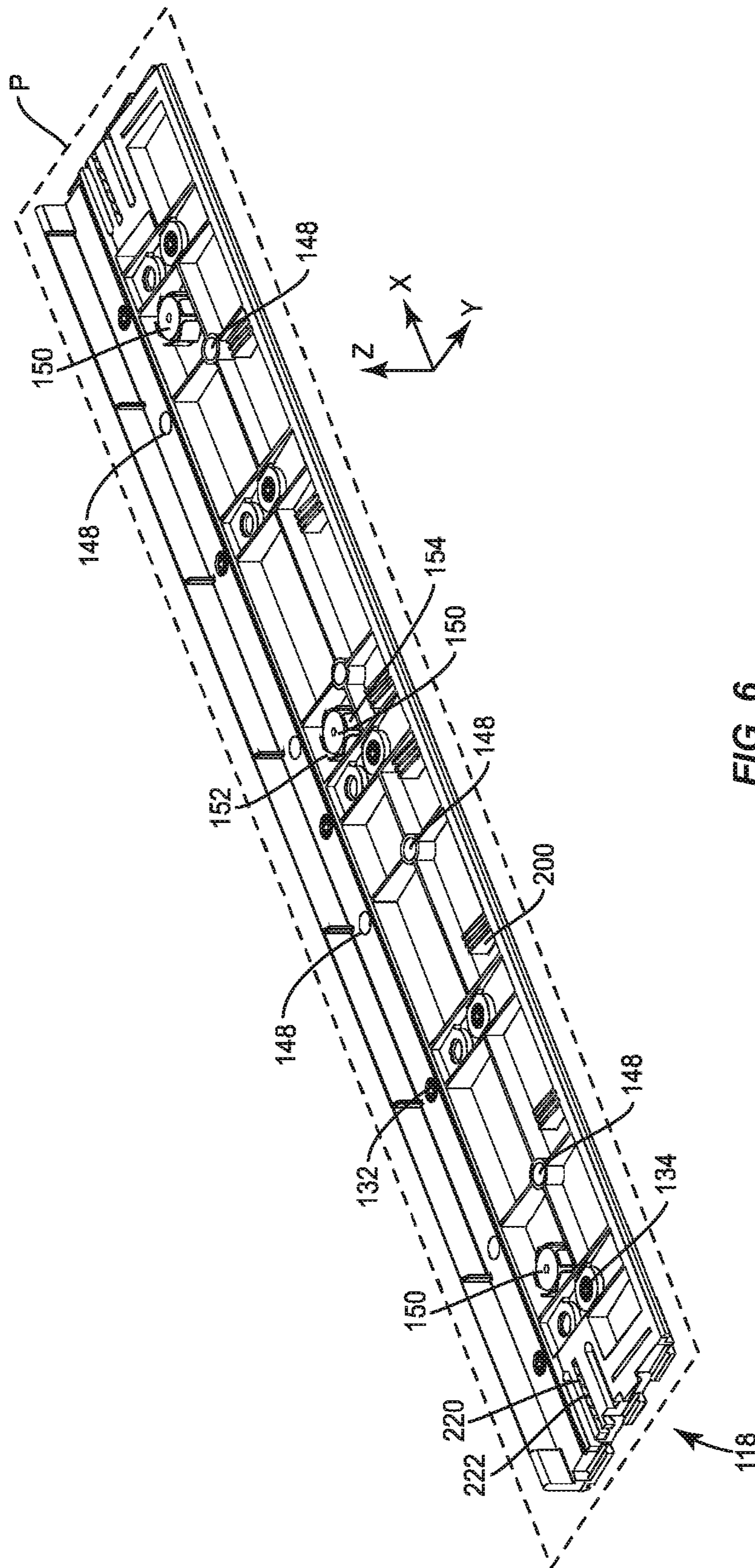
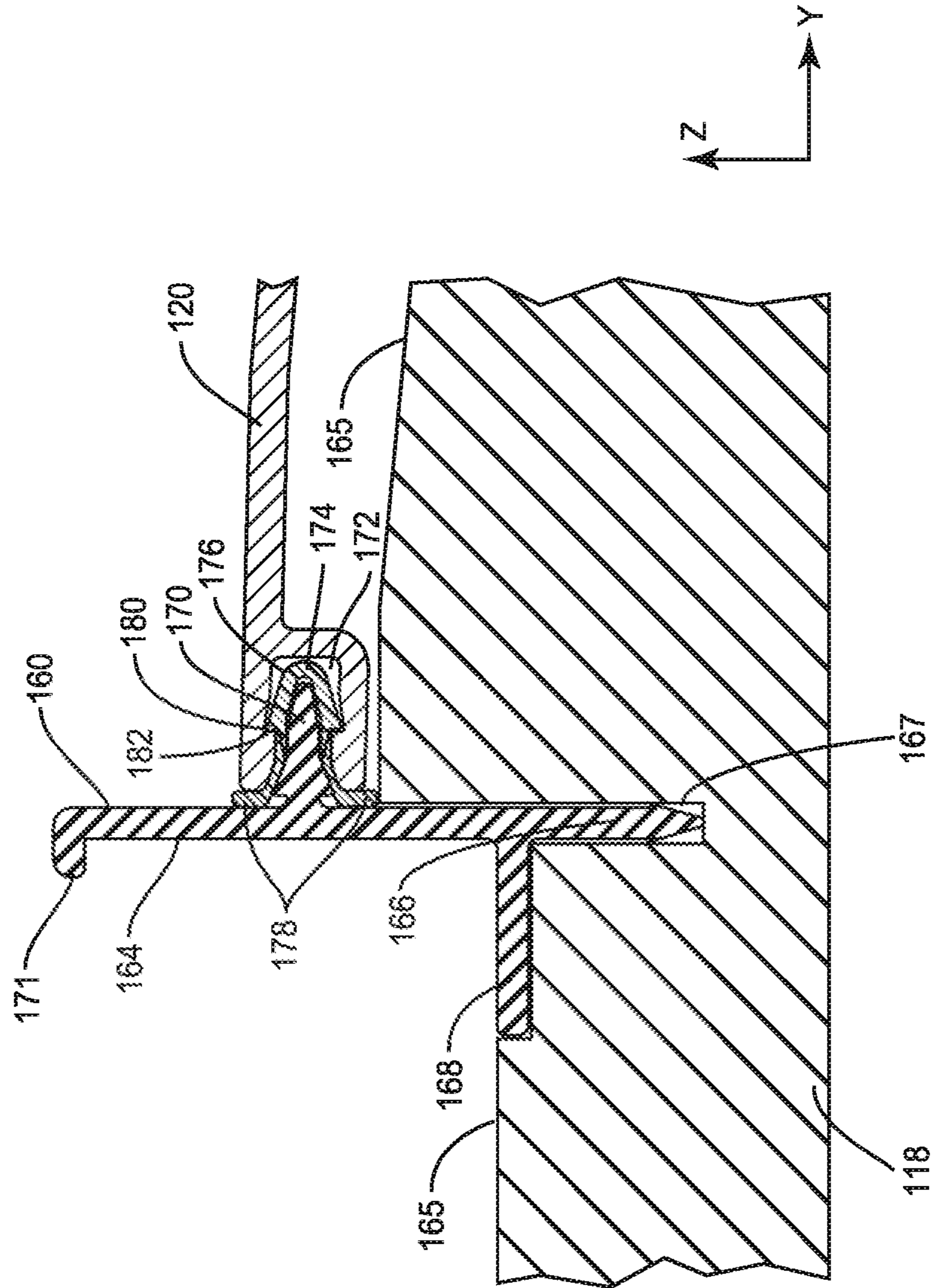


FIG. 6



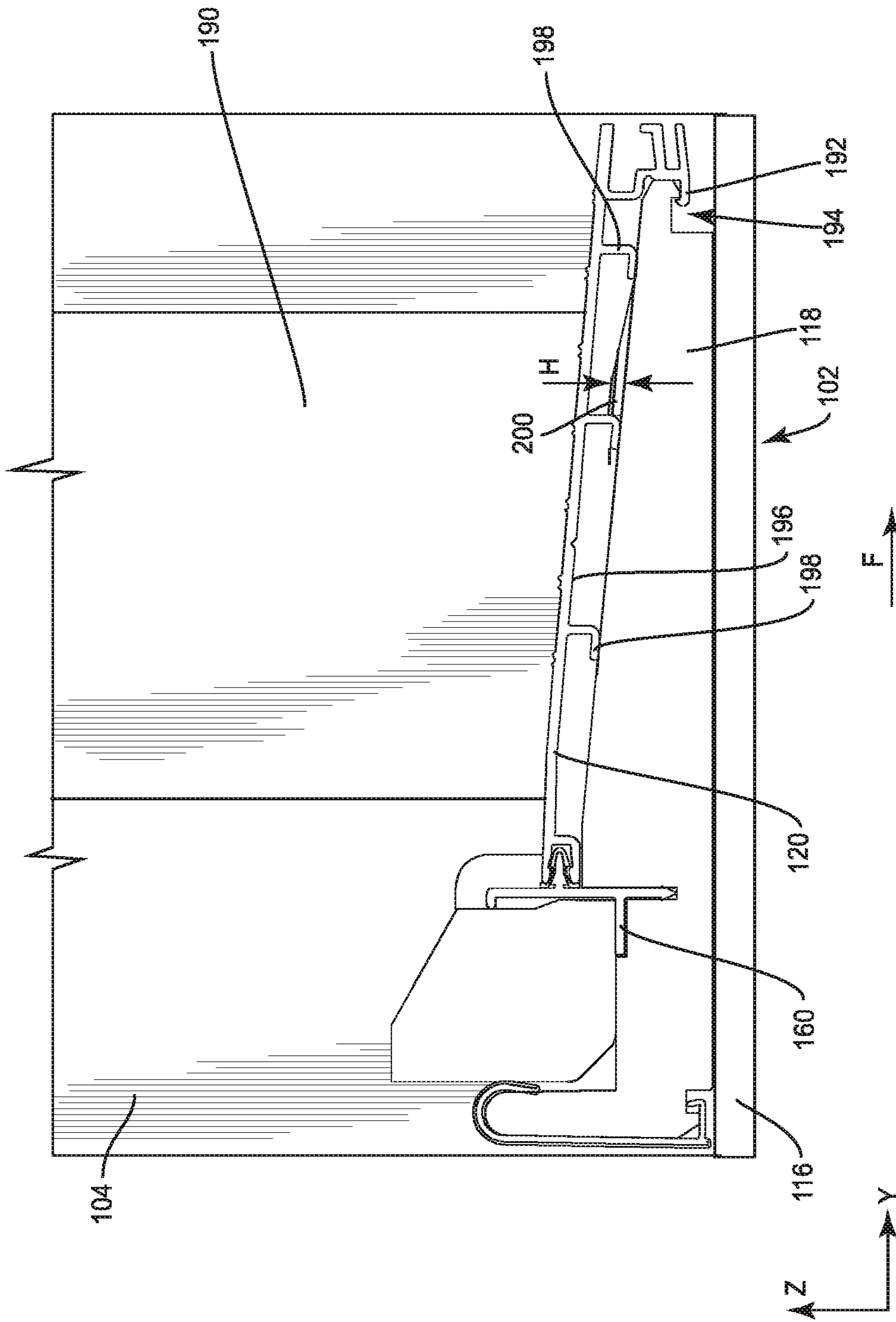


FIG. 8

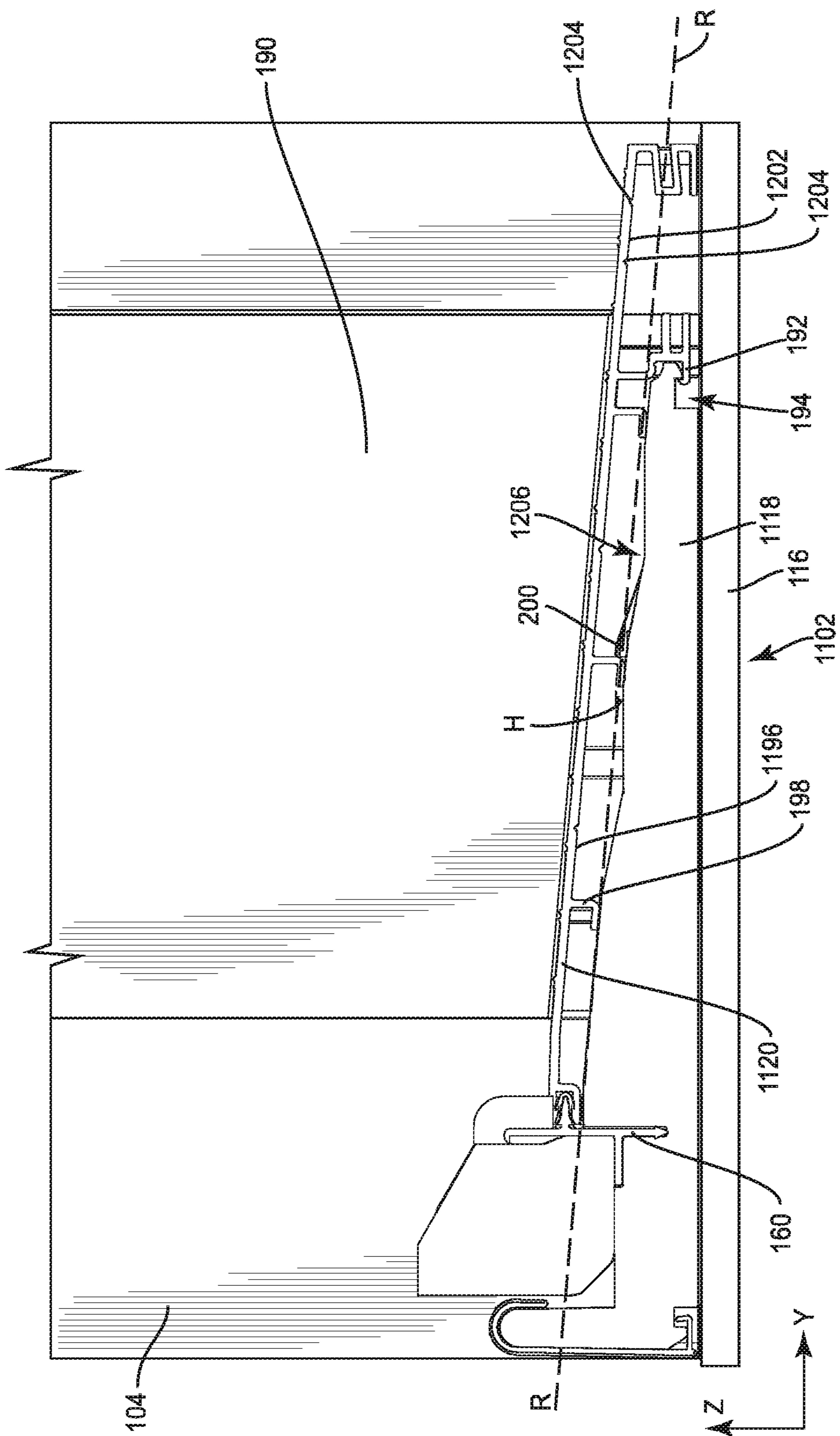


FIG. 9

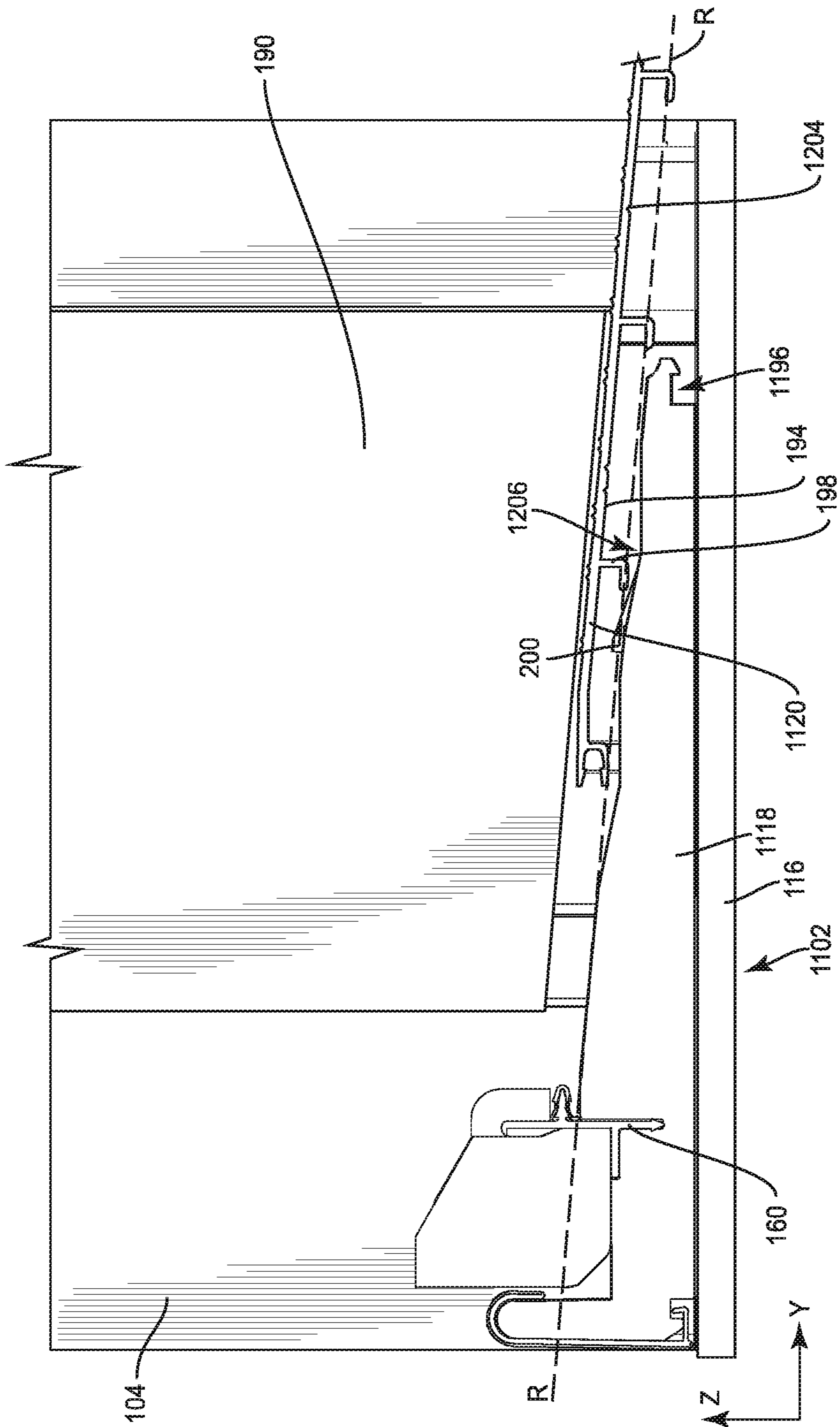


FIG. 10

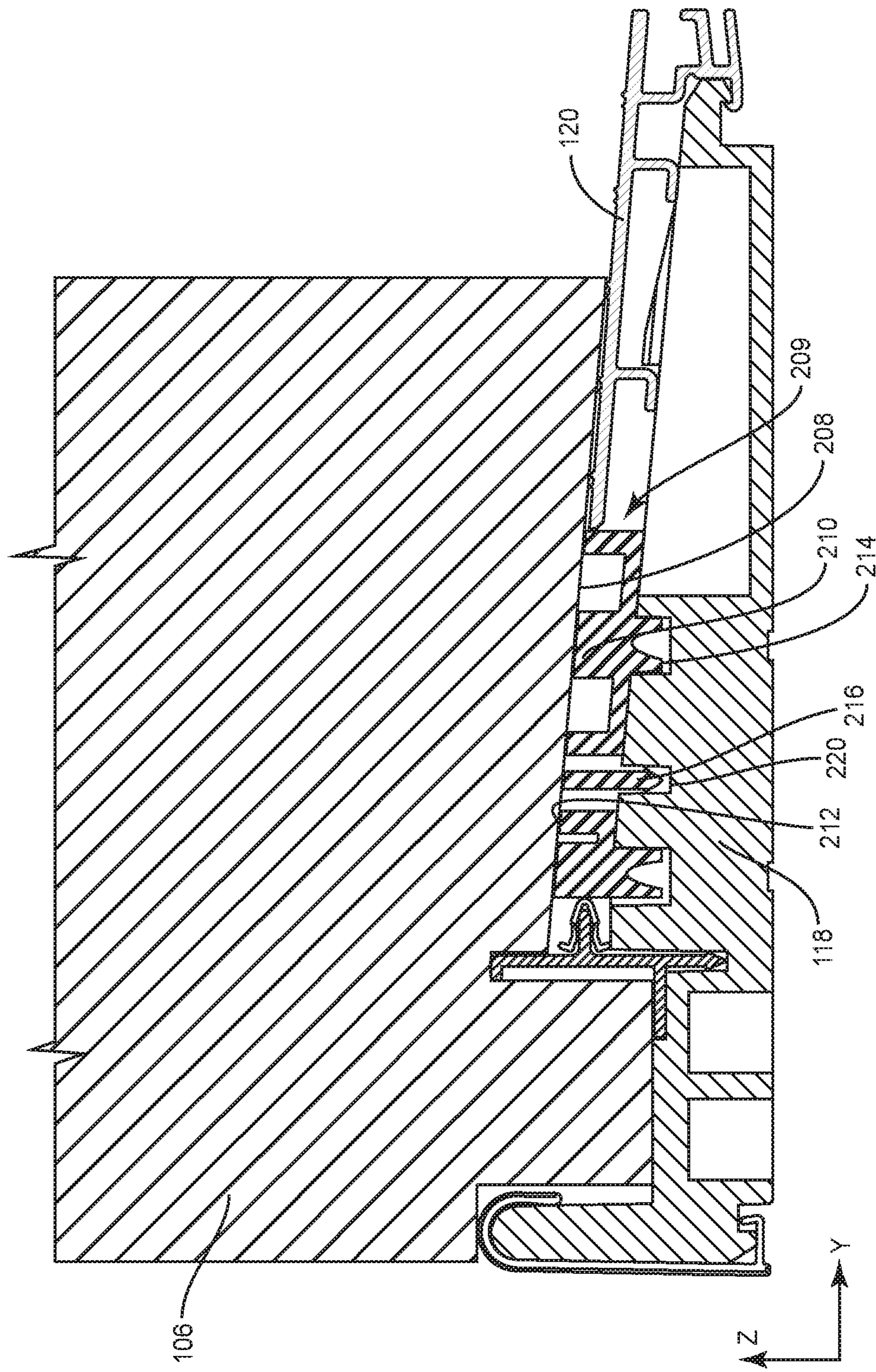


FIG. 11

DOORSILL WITH MULLION SPACER

PRIORITY

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 15/641,689 filed on Jul. 5, 2017, which, in turn, is a continuation of application Ser. No. 14/881,625 filed on Oct. 13, 2015, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,725,954. The contents of these prior patent documents are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates to building entryways, and more particularly to the doorsills or the thresholds of the entryways.

BACKGROUND

Doorsills play an important role in creating a barrier between the exterior and the interior of a building. Many doorsills are designed to form an air and watertight seal with the bottom of active and/or inactive door panels. Many doorsills are designed with water management in particular in mind, designed to move water away from the door to minimize or eliminate water penetrating over, under, or around the doorsill and into the building. Unwanted water can lead to interior damage to the floor or subfloor within the building.

Designers of doorsills seek to effectively manage sealing and water management. In many cases, water management features within doorsills use ramps or angled surfaces that rely on gravity to function correctly. In most instances, seals between a door and a doorsill function most effectively when everything is properly aligned. Imperfections in the subfloor, in a sill pan, in other framing portions of the entryway, or with the hanging of door panels limit the ability to easily achieve the desired alignment.

There is a need, therefore, for a doorsill that assists with approaching and maintaining desired alignment for maximizing the functionality of a doorsill to manage water and maintain the desired seals between an exterior and an interior of a building.

SUMMARY

The present disclosure describes doorsills and entryways having the same. The present disclosure provides methods of installing and using the doorsills. The doorsills described by this disclosure have several features that may be advantageous individually as well as collectively. The features described herein may be found alone or in a variety of combinations within a single doorsill or entryway. Applicants should be understood to possess the features of each embodiment and the products and processes that result from the combining aspects of one or more embodiment.

Embodiments of the present disclosure include a doorsill for forming the bottom of an entryway. The doorsill has a substrate to be disposed above a subfloor and a lifter provided on the substrate capable of extending from a bottom of the substrate. The lifter is adjustable to change the orientation or position of the bottom relative to the subfloor.

Embodiments of the present disclosure also include a doorsill comprising a substrate having a top side and a bottom side, the substrate comprising a plurality of threaded bores passing from the top side to the bottom side. The doorsill also includes a plurality of adjustment screws threaded into the threaded bores. Rotating the adjustment

screws from the top side of the substrate causes a head of the adjustment screw to extend or retract relative to the bottom side of the substrate. The doorsill also includes a sill deck removably positioned over the top side of the substrate that covers the adjustment screws.

Also described herein is a method of adjusting a doorsill comprising positioning the doorsill upon a subfloor or a sill pan and adjusting one or more of a plurality of jacks provided on a substrate of the doorsill to extend or retract from a bottom of the doorsill.

Further embodiments include a doorsill comprising a substrate, at least one indicator attached to the substrate, and a sill deck attachable to the substrate to hide the at least one indicator. The indicator suggests when the substrate has been oriented and installed in a level position.

Other embodiments include a doorsill comprising a substrate having at least one channel extending along a length direction of the substrate, a mull spacer selectively positioned along the length of the substrate by at least one leg extending from the bottom of the mull spacer into the channel, and a sill deck disposed over the substrate. The sill deck may have a notch positioned to at least partially surround the mull spacer.

Yet other embodiments include a doorsill comprising a substrate, a dam removably attached to the substrate, and a sill deck detachable from the dam. The dam may have a lower portion thereof that engages the substrate and a first horizontal wall extending inwardly from the dam at a position offset from the bottom of the dam.

In still other embodiments, the disclosure describes a doorsill comprising a dam attached to a sill deck with a detachable connection such that the sill deck can be removed and replaced. The detachable connection may include a male portion provided on one of the dam and the sill deck, a female portion provided on the other of the dam and the sill deck, and a V-shaped sealing member within the female portion and configured to at least partially surround the end of the male portion.

A doorsill is also provided that may include a substrate having a top side, and a sill deck disposed on the substrate. The sill deck may have a tread wall and at least one support. The support separates the tread wall from the top side of the substrate. At least one stop projects upwardly from the top side of the substrate adjacent to the at least one support to minimize unwanted sliding of the sill deck relative to the substrate.

An entryway is also included that has a doorsill and a pair of side jambs, the side jambs having stop portions that extend over the ends of the doorsill. The doorsill may include a substrate having a top side, and a sill deck removably disposed on the substrate. The sill deck may have a tread wall and at least one support. The support spaces the tread wall from the top side of the substrate. The top side of the substrate may have at least one relief region providing an area of increased margin between the top side of the substrate and a bottom of the stop portion to assist with removal of the sill deck from the entryway.

These and other aspects of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art after a reading of the following description of the preferred embodiments, when considered in conjunction with the drawings. It should be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a representative entryway suitable for the doorsills described herein.

3

FIG. 2 is a left top isometric view of a doorsill according to embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 is a bottom isometric view of the doorsill from FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is an exploded side view of the doorsill from FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a front view of a jack found in the doorsill of FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a top isometric view of a substrate according to embodiments described herein.

FIG. 7 is a detailed side view of the sealing region between a dam and a sill deck.

FIG. 8 is a side view of the doorsill of FIG. 2.

FIG. 9 is a side view of a doorsill according to another embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a side view of a doorsill according to FIG. 9 with the sill deck partially removed.

FIG. 11 is a cross sectional side view of a doorsill supporting a mullion according to embodiments of the present disclosure taken along line 11-11 in FIG. 1.

The foregoing and still other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following detailed explanation of embodiments of the invention in connection with the accompanying drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Exemplary embodiments of this disclosure are described below and illustrated in the accompanying figures, in which like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views. The embodiments described provide examples and should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the invention. Other embodiments, and modifications and improvements of the described embodiments, will occur to those skilled in the art and all such other embodiments, modifications and improvements are within the scope of the present invention. Features from one embodiment or aspect may be combined with features from any other embodiment or aspect in any appropriate combination. For example, any individual or collective features of method aspects or embodiments may be applied to apparatus, product or component aspects or embodiments and vice versa.

FIG. 1 illustrates an entryway 100 having a doorsill 102, a pair of side jambs 104, and a mullion 106 extending upwardly from the doorsill 102. A header 108 spans across the top of the side jambs and the mullion. An active door 110, a passive door 112, and a side light 114 are all seen in FIG. 1. The entryway 100 forms a partition between an interior and an exterior of a building. The doorsill 102 is disposed above a subfloor 116 or other support surface. A sill pan (not shown) may be located between the subfloor 116 and the doorsill 102 to help prevent water penetration below the doorsill.

FIG. 2 is a left top isometric view of a doorsill 102 according to embodiments of the present disclosure. As used herein, the terms “doorsill” and “threshold” may be used interchangeably. The doorsill 102 may generally include a substrate 118 and a sill deck 120. The substrate 118 can be understood as being placed above the subfloor 116 (FIG. 1) or other support surface. For example, a sill pan may be placed between the substrate 118 of the doorsill 102 and the subfloor 116. The sill deck 120 may be disposed above the substrate 118 to provide a tread surface. The doorsill 102 is shown with an optional threshold cap 122. Suitable threshold caps are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,991,100 and

4

8,567,128 assigned to Endura Products, Inc, Colfax, N.C. Several features of the doorsill 102 will now be described in more detail.

Lifting/Leveling Features

FIGS. 3-6 show embodiments that facilitate the adjustment of the position or orientation of the doorsill 102 within the entryway 100. Proper positioning of the doorsill 102 may improve sealing between the doorsill 102 and the door panels as well as improving water management.

FIG. 3 is a left bottom isometric view of the doorsill 102. As used herein, the X direction corresponds with the length of the doorsill 102 and extends along a left-right direction. Orientation about the X-direction or an axis parallel thereto may be referred to as tilt. The Y direction corresponds to the width of the doorsill 102 and extends in the direction through the entryway 100. Orientation about the Y-direction or an axis parallel thereto may be referred to as pitch. The Z direction corresponds with the height direction of the entryway 100 along which elements may be raised or lowered.

In some embodiments, the substrate 118 is provided with a lifter 124. The lifter 124 has portions designed to extend and retract in a downward direction relative to a bottom surface 126 of the substrate 118. Extending at least a portion of the lifter 124 from the bottom surface 126 may impact the orientation of the substrate 118 relative to the subfloor 116 (FIG. 1), a sill pan, a door panel found above the doorsill 102, or gravity. The lifter 124 may be able to make one or more of the following adjustments of the doorsill 102: raise and lower the doorsill 102 along a height direction (Z); adjust the tilt of the doorsill 102 about the X-direction; and adjust the pitch of the doorsill 102 about the Y-direction.

In one embodiment, the substrate 118, and therefore the doorsill 102 seeks to be installed in a level, horizontal manner. The bottom surface 126 may define a reference plane P having a major axis of the substrate 118 running in the X-direction and a minor axis of the substrate 118 running in the Y-direction. As used herein, the terms “horizontal” and “level” are used interchangeably to describe an orientation relative to the earth as defined by gravity as is understood in the building and construction industry, where the substrate 118 is fully level when gravity is acting in a direction that is normal to the reference plane P. In other words, true level occurs when gravity is acting both perpendicular to the major axis (x-direction) and perpendicular to the minor axis (y-direction). When the reference plane P is normal to gravity, any surfaces of the doorsill 102 that are angled relative to the reference plane P may be oriented with the desired slope for water management. While controlling both tilt and pitch is preferred to achieve a true or fully level position, applicants envision other embodiments with lifters that allow for correction of the doorsill orientation with respect to only one of the tilt about the x-direction or pitch about the y-direction.

The lifter 124 shown in FIG. 3 shows a plurality of jacks 128, 129. A first jack 128 nearest the left edge of the doorsill 102 in FIG. 3 is shown extended relative to the bottom surface 126. In the illustrated embodiment, a pair of second jacks 129 are shown retracted, e.g. flush, with the bottom surface 126. The lifter 124 is preferably provided with sufficient adjustability to place the doorsill 102 in a fully level position as defined above.

In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 3, the lifter 124 includes a plurality of jacks 128, 129. The jacks 128, 129 are spaced apart along a length of the substrate 118. Adjusting,

5

i.e. extending or retracting, the jacks 128, 129 relative to the bottom surface 126, and each other, may shift the orientation of the doorsill 102 with respect to an axis parallel to the Y-direction.

FIG. 4 shows an exploded end view of the doorsill 102. From this view, each jack 128, 129 is shown as possibly including a pad 130 and at least one adjustment screw 132 connecting the pad 130 to the substrate 118. Each screw 132 may fit in a threaded bore 134 (FIG. 6) passing from a top side to a bottom side of the substrate 118. Rotating the screw 132 within the threaded bore 134 may extend or retract a head 136 of the screw relative to the bottom surface 126 of the substrate 118, which in turn may move at least a portion of the pad 130 relative to the bottom surface 126. In one embodiment, the head 136 of the screw 132 may be sufficiently broad to provide a support surface such that the pad 130 may be omitted. Phrased another way, the screw may be integrated with the pad such that the head 136 and the pad 130 are one in the same.

As seen in FIG. 4, the jack 128, 129 of the present embodiment may have a pair of screws 132 attached near opposite ends of a single elongated pad 130. In the illustrated configuration, each jack 128, 129 may provide for the adjustment of the doorsill 102 with respect to the pitch (i.e. rotation about an axis extending along the X-direction) by rotating one of the screws 132 attached to the pad 130 more than the other of the screws 132 attached to the same pad. In other words, a support surface 138 defined by the pad 130 will be angled relative to the bottom surface 126 of the substrate 118. In other embodiments, each pad 130 may be associated with a single adjustment screw 132. In yet other embodiments, larger pads may be operably attached to more than two adjustment screws.

FIG. 5 shows a front view of a jack 128, 129 in a fully retracted position according to one embodiment. The pad 130 has a support surface 138 on the bottom thereof and an attachment channel 140 formed on the top thereof. The head 136 of the screw 132 may be sized and shaped to slide into the attachment channel 140. An optional plug 142 may be included to form the threaded bore 134 therewith. In the fully retracted position, the plug 142 may abut the pad 130. The plug 142 may be a durable metal element configured to be inserted into apertures through the substrate 118. In other embodiments, the plugs 142 may be omitted and the threaded bores 134 may be provided directly within the material forming the substrate 118. The plugs 142 may be fixed to the substrate with barbs 144, adhesive, or other suitable approaches known in the art.

FIG. 6 is an isometric left top view of the substrate 118. The threaded bores 134 are shown. Each bore may accommodate an adjustment screw 132. Prior to installing the sill deck and the threshold cap upon the substrate 118, an adjustment screw 132 may be accessed for adjusting one or more of the jacks of the lifter so that the substrate 118 is provided with the desired orientation upon the subfloor, sill pan, or other underlying element. In some embodiments, as will be discussed further below, the sill deck and the threshold cap may be removably attached to the substrate 118 so that the lifter may be operated via the adjustment screws 132 after the doorsill has been installed in an entryway by removing the sill deck from the substrate 118.

Returning to FIG. 3, the bottom surface 126 of the substrate 118 may be provided with recesses 146 configured to fully receive each pad 130 in a fully retracted position. The fully retracted position may occur when the support surface of the pad 130 is flush with the bottom surface 126 and coplanar with the reference plane P as is shown with

6

second jacks 129. The substrate 118 may be shipped with each of the jacks 128, 129 in their fully retracted position. In one embodiment, each jack 128, 129 may be able to extend the support surface 138 up to ¼ inches from the bottom surface 126 when the jack 128, 129 is in the fully extended position.

Returning to FIG. 6, the substrate 118 may be provided with other features that may be provided and used independently or in combination with the lifter 124. The substrate 118 may be formed with integral anchor points 148 for positioning fasteners that attach the substrate 118 to the subfloor 116 (FIG. 1). The fasteners, such as screws, may be required by local building codes for securing the doorsill 102 (FIG. 1) to the subfloor. The anchor points 148 may take the form of indicia, cavities, recesses, or other guides that may mark fastener placement and allow for placement of at least a portion of each fastener within the substrate 118.

FIG. 6 shows another optional feature incorporated with the substrate 118; namely, the addition of at least one indicator 150 attached to the substrate 118 to indicate an orientation of the door doorsill relative to gravity. The indicator 150 may be in the form of a bullseye type bubble level as known in the art for indicating the level orientation of a horizontal plane. The indicator 150 may be other types as well, particularly indicators that are able to provide indication with respect to more than one axis, though single axis indicators are also considered. In the illustrated embodiment, the indicator 150 may be attached to the substrate 118 in a manner, and at a location, that ensures the indicator is itself level with the reference plane P, which is parallel to the bottom surface 126. In many cases, placing a level on the top side of a conventional threshold substrate may not provide a level reading because the top side of many threshold substrates are intended to be sloped in an interior-to-exterior direction (Y-direction). On the other hand, the substrate 118 illustrated includes pre-formed pockets 152 of sufficient size for a bullseye level. A floor of each pocket 152 is parallel with the bottom surface 126 (FIG. 4). One or more resilient fins 154 may be integrated with the substrate 118 to removably hold an indicator 150 to the substrate 118. Similar to the sloping top side of many substrates, tread surfaces of many sill decks are also sloped. Therefore the indicators 150 are configured for use prior to installation of the sill deck 120 (FIG. 4) upon the substrate 118. As discussed above, the sill deck 120 may be removable. As such, the indicators 150 may be hidden from view when the sill deck is added and exposed for use when the sill deck is removed in the same manner as the screws of the lifter 124 discussed above.

Operation and use of the lifter 124 may be described in terms of one or more methods of installing a doorsill 102 in a desired orientation. The method may include actions such as positioning the doorsill 102 upon a subfloor 116 or upon a sill pan, followed by adjusting one or more of a plurality of jacks 128, 129 provided on a substrate 118 of the doorsill 102 until the substrate reaches the desired orientation. The desired orientation may require at least one of adjusting the height of the doorsill 102 relative to the subfloor 116, adjusting the pitch relative to the subfloor and adjusting the tilt relative to the subfloor or gravity. Adjusting a jack 128, 129 may include rotating an adjustment screw 132 to extend or retract a respective pad 130 relative to a bottom surface 126 of the substrate 118. A sill deck 120 may be installed upon the substrate 118 after the substrate reaches the desired position.

In some embodiments, a doorsill 102 having a lifter 124 may be adjustable after installation if provided with a removable sill deck 120 (FIG. 4). In such an embodiment, a

method of adjusting the position and orientation of the doorsill **102** may include removing an existing sill deck, adjusting one or more of the plurality of jacks **128**, **129**, and attaching one of the existing sill deck or a replacement sill deck to the substrate **118**. Where the substrate **118** is provided with one or more indicators **150**, or at least locations for receiving indicators (e.g. pockets **152**), the method may also include determining whether the substrate **118** has reached a position free from at least one of pitch and tilt using an indicator **150** attached to the substrate and exposed to view when the existing sill deck is removed.

As mentioned above, several of the features of the doorsill **102** may be novel and advantageous separate and apart from use with a lifter **124**. Some of such features may be highlighted in terms of the following paragraphs:

Paragraph A: A doorsill comprising:
a substrate;

at least one indicator attached to the substrate, the indicator providing an indication of when the substrate is free from at least one of pitch and tilt; and

a sill deck attachable to the substrate to cover the at least one indicator when the substrate has been installed in a level position.

Paragraph B. The doorsill of Paragraph A, wherein the at least one indicator is a bubble level.

Paragraph C. The doorsill of Paragraph B, wherein the bubble level is a bullseye type providing an indication of when the substrate is free from both pitch and tilt.

Paragraph D. The doorsill of Paragraph A, wherein the at least one indicator is removably attached to the substrate.

Paragraph E. The doorsill of Paragraph D, wherein the substrate has resilient fins grouped together to removably retain a respective indicator.

Removable Sill Deck Features

As mentioned above, a substrate **118** with a lifter **124**, and the use of indicators **150** may be improved when the doorsill **102** has a sill deck **120** that is capable of being installed onto and/or removed from the substrate **118** after the substrate has been installed within the entryway **100**. Several optional features of the doorsill **102** have been designed with the removable sill deck in mind. Each of the features discussed below may support, individually or in combination, separate novel concepts.

Dam

Returning to FIG. **4**, the exploded view of the doorsill **102** includes a dam **160** configured, in this embodiment, to be press fit to the substrate **118**. As commonly found in existing thresholds, dams create an upright exterior wall of an upwardly open channel **162** into which the threshold cap **122** may be installed. As the name suggests, the dam provides an upright barrier at the end of the sill deck **120** for limiting water intrusion. Dams found within the prior art are almost exclusively formed integrally with the sill deck. On the other hand, the dam **160** of the instant embodiment is specifically constructed to be detachable from the sill deck **120** to facilitate the ability for the sill deck to be installed onto and/or removed from the substrate **118** after the substrate has been installed within the entryway **100** (FIG. **1**).

FIG. **7** shows a detailed view of the dam **160**, which may include a vertical wall **164** with a lower portion **166** thereof that is snap fit or otherwise removably attached to the substrate **118**. A first horizontal wall **168** may extend inwardly (i.e. relative to the Y-direction or the interior-to-

exterior direction) from the dam **160** at a position offset from the bottom of the dam **160**. The first horizontal wall **168** may be configured to reside at or near the bottom of the upwardly open channel **162** to provide support to the vertical wall **164**.

A second horizontal wall **170** may extend outwardly (i.e. relative to the Y or interior-to-exterior direction) from the vertical wall **164**. The second horizontal wall **170** may extend from a position along the vertical wall **164** that is higher than the first horizontal wall **168**. The second horizontal wall **170** may be configured to engage a portion of the sill deck **120**.

A doorsill with a dam **160** as described by this section may be embodied by the following paragraphs:

Paragraph F. A doorsill, comprising:

a substrate;

a dam removably attached to the substrate; and

a sill deck detachable from the dam,

wherein the dam has a lower portion thereof that engages the substrate.

Paragraph G. The doorsill of Paragraph F, further comprising:

a second horizontal wall, the second horizontal wall extending outwardly from the vertical wall.

Paragraph H. The doorsill of Paragraph F, wherein the second horizontal wall extends from a position along the vertical wall that is higher than the first horizontal wall.

Paragraph I. The doorsill of Paragraph F, wherein the dam is press fit to the substrate, the sill deck is snap fit to the dam.

Seal

The detailed view of FIG. **7** shows the engagement between the dam **160**, particularly the second horizontal wall **170**, and the sill deck **120**. The sill deck **120** may include a groove **172** for accepting the second horizontal wall **170**. One skilled in the art would recognize that the arrangement of the second horizontal wall **170** and the groove **172** may be reversed, such that the dam **160** may have a female portion of the engagement and the sill deck **120** may provide the male portion of the engagement.

To assist with providing a watertight seal between the dam **160** and the sill deck **120**, a seal **174** may be disposed between the second horizontal wall **170** and the groove **172**. The seal **174** may be described as being V-shaped, for being snap-fit into a female portion of the joint (i.e. groove **172**) and the seal **174** may be shaped to at least partially surround the end of the male portion of the joint (i.e. second horizontal wall **170**).

The seal **174** can include an apex portion **176** formed from a relatively rigid metal or polymer material. The seal **174** can also include a pair of tip portions **178** formed from a relatively resilient rubber or polymer material at the tips of the V-shaped seal **174** on either side of the apex portion **176**. The apex portion **176** may include outwardly projecting retention ridges **180** proximate to the interface between the apex portion **176** and the respective tip portions **178**. The projecting retention ridges **180** may engage recesses **182** within the groove **172** to help maintain the seal **174** within the groove **172**. To form a tight fit with the seal **174**, having potentially diverging tip portions **178**, the second horizontal wall **170** may be provided with a tapered profile, having a thicker portion near the vertical wall **164** of the dam **160** and becoming thinner in an outward direction.

A doorsill with a seal **174** as described by this section may be embodied by the following paragraphs:

Paragraph J. A doorsill, comprising:
 a dam attached to a sill deck with a detachable connection such that the sill deck can be removed and replaced, wherein the detachable connection comprises:
 a male portion provided on one of the dam and the sill deck;
 a female portion provided on the other of the dam and the sill deck; and
 a seal within the female portion and configured to at least partially surround the end of the male portion.

Paragraph K. The doorsill of Paragraph J, wherein the v-shaped seal comprises an apex portion having relatively rigid material portion at the apex of the V-shape and a pair of tip portions having relatively resilient material at the tips of the V-shape.

Paragraph L. The doorsill of Paragraph K, wherein the apex portion comprises outwardly projecting retention ridges proximate to an interface between the apex portion and the respective tip portions.

Paragraph M. The doorsill of Paragraph L, wherein the female portion comprises a pair of retaining recesses to accept the retention ridges of the sealing member.

Paragraph N. The doorsill of Paragraph J, wherein the detachable connection is a snap-fit connection and the seal is snap-fit within the female portion.

Sill Deck Retention

FIG. 8 shows a side view of a doorsill 102 with a side jamb 104 shown in the rear. The side jamb 104 includes an abutment section 190 projecting from the side jamb 104 and extending over an edge of the sill deck 120. In the illustrated embodiment, the sill deck 120 has been designed to be removable from the doorsill 102 by pulling, in the direction shown by arrow F, the sill deck 120 toward the exterior side of the entryway to release the press fit seal between the dam 160 and the sill deck 120 as described above, and to substantially allow the sill deck 120 to slide between the substrate 118 and the abutment section 190 of the side jamb 104. In some embodiments the sill deck 120 may be provided with a clip 192 at or near the exterior end thereof for engaging a catch 194 formed in the substrate 118. Beginning the process of removing the sill deck 120 may include elastically or permanently deforming the clip 192 to disengage the catch 194 prior to pulling out the sill deck 120.

To position the sill deck 120 upon the substrate 118, a tread wall 196 of the sill deck 120 may be formed with a plurality of support legs 198. The support legs 198 may extend substantially the entire length (along the X-direction) of the sill deck 120. The support legs 198 may be L-shaped as shown in FIG. 8 to have a sturdy base for contacting the substrate 118 and supporting the sill deck 120.

The ability to remove the sill deck 120 from the installed substrate 118 is advantageous for the use of many of the features discussed above. However, the sill deck 120 should not separate from the substrate 118 simply due to the forces applied by someone's foot stepping on the sill deck 120 and walking through the entryway 100. The retention of the sill deck 120 with the substrate 118 is provided in part by the fit at the seal 174 and the mating of the clip 192 with the catch 194. In addition, the substrate 118 may include a plurality of stops 200 projecting upward from a top side of the substrate 118. The stops 200 may be positioned on the substrate 118 in a location immediately exterior to the location of one or more of the support legs 198 to provide a contact surface to limit unintentional movement of the sill deck 120 toward the exterior of the entryway 100. The height H of a stop 200 may

be measured as the vertical distance from the top side of the substrate 118 immediately interior of the stop 200 to the top of the stop. A representative height H is shown in FIG. 8.

Returning to FIG. 6, the stops 200 in the illustrated embodiment are shown as fin-like structures, provided in groups of three, with groups of stops 200 spaced apart along the length of the substrate 118. Further, the height H of each stop 200 may vary. In one embodiment, applicants have found that the height of stops 120 near the center of the substrate 118 may be greater than the height of the stops 118 near the ends of the substrate. Having tall stops 200 near the center imparts the most resistant to movement where the forces of a person's foot are expected to occur. Further, to facilitate removal of the sill deck 120, the center of the sill deck 120 can be bowed upwardly to a larger degree to slide over the stops 200, than the edges of the sill deck 120 due to the presence of the abutment portion of the side jamb. Therefore, if the height of the stops 200 near the ends of the substrate 118 are too tall, the sill deck may not have sufficient room to slide between the top side of the substrate and the bottom of the abutment portion.

A doorsill with a removable sill deck 120 and a substrate 118 having stops 200 as described by this section may be embodied by the following paragraphs:

Paragraph O. A doorsill, comprising:

a substrate having a top side; and

a sill deck disposed on the substrate, the sill deck having a tread wall and at least one support, the support separating the tread wall from the top side of the substrate,

wherein at least one stop projects upwardly from the top side of the substrate adjacent to the at least one support.

Paragraph P. The doorsill of Paragraph O, wherein the at least one stop comprises a plurality of stops spaced apart along a length of the substrate.

Paragraph Q. The doorsill of Paragraph P, wherein the plurality of stops vary in height along the length of the substrate, wherein a centermost stop has the tallest height.

Paragraph R. The doorsill of Paragraph P, wherein the plurality of stops are arranged in a plurality of groups, the plurality of groups being spaced along the length of the substrate.

Paragraph S. A method of removing a sill deck from an entryway, the entryway comprising a threshold substrate having a top side and at least one stop projecting upwardly from the top side, a sill deck disposed over the substrate and spaced therefrom by at least one leg, and a pair of side jambs, the side jambs having abutment portions that at least partially overlap the substrate and the sill deck, the method comprising:

pulling the sill deck in an exterior direction through a gap between the substrate and a bottom of the abutment portions; and

deforming the sill deck to allow the at least one leg to pass over the at least one stop.

Wide Doorsills

FIG. 9 shows a cross section of a doorsill 1102 having a substrate 1118 and a sill deck 1120 according to another embodiment. The doorsill 1102 of this second embodiment is substantially wider (in the Y-direction) than the doorsill 102 of the first embodiment (FIG. 8). A wide doorsill may be considered as at least about 6 inches wide. In the wide embodiment, the sill deck 1120 may include an extension 1202 formed beyond the clip 192 with respect to the exterior direction of the entryway 100.

11

Applicants have found that doorsills **1102** of a wide construction present additional challenges when seeking to provide removability for the sill deck **1120**. The contact between the sill deck **1120** and the subfloor **116** coupled with the sloped tread wall **1196** impacts the ability for the sill deck **1120** to be slide out in a purely Y-direction.

To facilitate removal of the wide sill deck **1120**, one or more seams **1204** may be provided in the tread wall **1196** that run along a length direction (X-direction) of the sill deck **1120**. The extension **1202** may have one or more seams **1204** along which the exterior of the sill deck may be bent or broken to gain access to the clip **192**. The tread wall **1196** may include one or more additional seams **1204** positioned relatively interior of the clip **192**.

Additional features may be included in the substrate **1118** to further facilitate removal of the wide sill deck **1120**. For example, the top side of the substrate **1118** can have at least one relief region **1206** providing an area of increased margin between the top side of the substrate **1118** and a bottom of the tread wall **1196** to assist with removal of the sill deck **1120** from the entryway **100**. Described another way, the profile of the top side of the substrate **1118** may follow an imaginary downwardly sloped reference line R shown in FIG. **9**. At least one portion of the top side forms a relief region **1206** with the top side temporarily dipping below the sloped reference line R to accommodate a support leg **198** as the wide sill deck **1120** is removed from the substrate **1118**. While FIG. **9** shows the relief region **1206** as encompassing a gradual dip or scallop, the relief region can be other shapes such as troughs or cutouts, etc. During removal of the wide sill deck **1120**, when a support leg **198** is positioned to correspond with one of the relief regions **1206**, as shown in FIG. **10**, a user may be able to lift the exterior end of the sill deck **1120** so the tread wall **1196** is more level with the subfloor **116** to assist with fitting the wide sill deck **1120** between the top side of the substrate **1118** and the bottom of the abutment portions **1190**.

An entryway with a removable wide sill deck **1120**, and a method of removing such a sill deck, as described by this section may be embodied by the following paragraphs:

Paragraph T. An entryway, comprising:

a doorsill and a pair of side jambs, the side jambs having stop portions that extend over the ends of the doorsill, wherein the doorsill comprises: a substrate having a top side; and

a sill deck removably disposed on the substrate, the sill deck having a tread wall and at least one support, the support spacing the tread wall from the top side of the substrate,

wherein the top side of the substrate has at least one relief region providing an area of increased margin between the top side of the substrate and a bottom of the tread wall to assist with removal of the sill deck from the entryway.

Paragraph U. The entryway of Paragraph T, wherein a profile of the top side of the substrate follows an imaginary downwardly sloped line and the relief region is defined by a segments of the top side profile that are below the sloped line to accommodate the support leg as the sill deck is removed from the substrate.

Paragraph V. A method of removing a sill deck from an entryway, the entryway comprising a threshold substrate having a top side, a sill deck disposed over the substrate and spaced therefrom by at least one support, and a pair of side jambs, the side jambs having abutment portions that at least partially overlap the substrate and the sill deck, the method comprising:

12

pulling the sill deck in an exterior direction through a gap between the substrate and a bottom of the abutment portions; and

lifting an exterior end of the sill deck as the at least one support pass a relief scallop provided along the top side of the substrate.

Paragraph W. The method of Paragraph V, further comprising bending the sill desk along at least one seam running along a length direction of the sill deck.

Mullion Spacer

In certain embodiments, a mullion **106** (FIG. **1**) may be provided as part of an entryway **100**, either between two doors or between a door and a sidelight. Turning to FIG. **11**, in several of those embodiments, the bottom **208** of the mullion **106** will be sized to overlap portions of an installed sill deck **120**, much in the same way as the abutment portions of the side jambs overlap the sill deck. Similarly, a gap **209** will generally be provided between the bottom **208** of the mullion **106** and the top side of the substrate **118** so that portions of the sill deck **120** may be accommodated within the gap. In these embodiments, it is desired that the mullion **106** is attached to and supported by the doorsill **102**, particularly the substrate **118**. To provide both the desired support to the bottom of the mullion **106** and the attachment to the substrate **118** while maintaining the gap **209**, a spacer **210** may be inserted between the substrate **118** and the bottom of the mullion **106**. The spacer **210** may include a top surface **212** supporting the bottom of the mullion **106**, and a bottom surface **214** sitting on the top side of the substrate **118**. A post **216** may extend down from the bottom surface **214** to help couple the spacer **210** to the substrate **118**. The top surface **212** of the mullion spacer **210** is smaller than the bottom of the mullion **106** so that the bottom surface of the mullion overlaps and hides a portion of the sill deck **120**. The sill deck may include a notch (not shown) that is larger than the spacer **210** so the sill deck **120** can surround the spacer **210** but where the notch is smaller than the bottom of the mullion **106** to be hidden from view when the sill deck **120** is install.

Returning again to FIG. **6**, the top side of the substrate **118** may include an attachment channel **220** formed in to the top side, and extending along the length direction of the substrate **118** near the upwardly open channel **162**. The attachment channel **220** is positioned to accept the post **216** of the spacer **210**. The elongated nature of the attachment channel **220** allows for placement of the spacer **210** along the substrate **118** in the proper location for supporting the mullion **106**. The attachment channel may have crush ribs **222** therein to create a friction fit with the at least one post **216**.

A doorsill and an entryway with a spacer **210** as described by this section may be embodied by the following paragraphs:

Paragraph X. A doorsill comprising:

a substrate having at least one channel extending along a length direction of the substrate;

a mullion spacer selectively positioned along the length of the substrate by at least one post extending from a bottom surface of the mullion spacer into the channel; and

a sill deck disposed over the substrate, the sill deck shaped to at least partially surround the mullion spacer.

Paragraph Y. The doorsill of Paragraph X, wherein the channel comprises crush ribs to create a friction fit with the at least one post.

13

Paragraph Z. An entryway comprising:
the doorsill according to Paragraph V; and
a mullion extending up from the doorsill and supported
upon the mullion spacer.

Paragraph AA. The entryway of Paragraph Z, a top
surface of the mullion spacer is smaller than a bottom
surface of the mullion such that the bottom surface of the
mullion overlaps and hides a portion of the sill deck.

Although the above disclosure has been presented in the
context of exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood
that modifications and variations may be utilized without
departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as those
skilled in the art will readily understand. Such modifications
and variations are considered to be within the purview and
scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

The invention claimed is:

1. A doorsill comprising:

a substrate having a length, a width, and a top side, the
substrate including a receptacle defined therein;

at least one mullion spacer having a top surface and being
selectively positioned along the length of the substrate;
the at least one mullion spacer extending upwardly from
the top side of the substrate and including an integrally
formed spacer post, the spacer post received within the
receptacle to secure the at least one mullion spacer to
the substrate;

the at least one mullion spacer being configured to under-
lie and support a mullion post extending upwardly from
the doorsill and to space a bottom end of the mullion
post above the top side of the substrate; and

a sill deck secured to and covering a portion of the
substrate, the sill deck being formed with a notch
surrounding the at least one mullion spacer, the top
surface of the at least one mullion spacer being smaller
than a bottom surface of a mullion post so that a bottom
surface of the mullion post overlaps and hides a portion
of the sill deck around the at least one mullion spacer.

2. A doorsill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one
mullion spacer is secured to the substrate.

3. A doorsill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle
comprises an attachment channel formed in the top side of
the substrate and extending along the length direction of the
substrate.

4. A doorsill as claimed in claim 3 further comprising
crush ribs associated with the channel configured to create a
friction fit with the spacer post of the at least one mullion
spacer.

5. A doorsill as claimed in claim 4, wherein the channel
is sufficiently elongated to allow for placement of the at least
one mullion spacer along the substrate such that the at least
one mullion spacer is configured to support a mullion post.

6. A doorsill as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a
mullion post extending upwardly from the at least one
doorsill and supported upon the at least one mullion spacer.

7. A doorsill as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate
has an outside edge for facing the outside of a building and
wherein the sill deck can be slid in a direction towards the
outside edge to remove the sill deck from the substrate while
leaving the mullion post supported upon the at least one
mullion spacer in place.

8. An entryway comprising a right jamb, a left jamb, a
mullion post, and a header, the right jamb and the left jamb
extending upwardly from respective ends of the doorsill
claimed in claim 1 and the mullion post resting on the
mullion spacer of the doorsill claimed in claim 1.

14

9. An entryway as claimed in claim 8 further comprising
at least one door panel hingedly mounted in the entryway
and movable between a closed position and an open posi-
tion.

10. A door assembly for an entryway, the door assembly
comprising a doorsill, a left jamb with a bottom end, a right
jamb with a bottom end, and a mullion with a bottom end,
the mullion being located between the left jamb and the right
jamb, the doorsill comprising:

a substrate for mounting on a subfloor of a building
entryway, the substrate having ends and an outside
edge, the substrate including a receptacle defined
therein;

a sill deck secured to and covering at least a portion of the
substrate, the sill deck being selectively removable
from the substrate by sliding the sill deck in a direction
of the outside edge of the substrate;

a mullion spacer mounted on the substrate and extending
upwardly therefrom, the mullion spacer being located
along a length of the substrate such that the mullion
spacer will underlie and support the bottom end of the
mullion of the door assembly, the mullion spacer
including an integrally formed spacer post, the spacer
post received within the receptacle to secure the mul-
lion spacer to the substrate;

the sill deck having a cut-out with edges that at least
partially surround the mullion spacer; and

when the sill deck is slid in the direction of the outside
edge of the substrate for removal, the cutout moves
away from the mullion spacer leaving the mullion
spacer to support the bottom end of the mullion on the
substrate, a top surface of the mullion spacer being
smaller than the bottom end of a mullion to be sup-
ported on the spacer so that the bottom end of a mullion
overlaps a portion of the sill deck around the mullion
spacer.

11. The doorsill of claim 10, wherein the receptacle
comprises an elongated channel extending in the direction of
the length of the substrate allowing the mullion spacer to be
located selectively along the channel to underlie the bottom
end of a mullion.

12. The doorsill of claim 11 further comprising structures
associated with the elongated channel to secure the down-
wardly extending post of the mullion spacer in the channel.

13. The doorsill of claim 12, wherein the structures
comprise crush ribs that create a friction fit with the spacer
post of the mullion spacer.

14. A doorsill assembly for an entryway, the doorsill
assembly comprising an elongated substrate, a sill deck
covering at least a portion of the elongated substrate, and a
mullion spacer located along a length of the substrate to
underlie and support a bottom end of a mullion above a top
surface of the substrate, the mullion spacer including an
integrally formed spacer post, the spacer post received by a
receptacle formed in the substrate to secure the mullion
spacer to the substrate, the sill deck being formed with a
notch that receives the mullion spacer so that the sill deck
may be removed from the substrate leaving the mullion
spacer in place supporting a mullion above the substrate, the
mullion spacer and the notch being smaller than the bottom
end of a mullion so that the bottom end of a mullion covers
the mullion spacer and a portion of the sill deck around the
notch to hide the mullion spacer and create the appearance
that the bottom end of the mullion rests on the sill deck.

15. A doorsill assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein
the mullion spacer is secured to the substrate with the spacer

15

post extending downwardly from the mullion spacer and into a receptacle formed on the substrate.

16. A doorsill assembly as claimed in claim **15**, wherein the receptacle comprises a channel extending lengthwise along the substrate so that the mullion spacer may be located at a predetermined position along the channel. 5

17. A doorsill as claimed in claim **16** further comprising crush ribs in the channel that create a friction fit with the spacer post of the mullion spacer.

18. A doorsill as claimed in claim **14** further comprising at least one second mullion spacer located along the length of the substrate to underlie and support the bottom end of a second mullion above a top surface of the substrate, the sill deck being formed with a second notch that receives the second mullion spacer. 10 15

* * * * *

16

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 10,697,228 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 16/269234
DATED : June 30, 2020
INVENTOR(S) : Thomas C. Swank et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Specification

Column 1, Line 8:

Delete "U.S. Pat. No. 9,725,954" and insert -- U.S. Pat. No. 9,725,945 --.

In the Claims

Claim 10, Column 14, Line 27:


Delete the word "cut-out" and insert -- cutout --.

Claim 17, Column 15, Line 7:

After the word "doorsill" insert -- assembly --.

Claim 18, Column 15, Line 10:

After the word "doorsill" insert -- assembly --.

Signed and Sealed this
Third Day of September, 2024

Katherine Kelly Vidal
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office